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U.S. Peace Drive Is Seen Allaying Hanoi Suspicions

By Jeffrey Paley

Of The Herald Tribune Staff

The continuing American peace offensive is beginning to break down Hanoi's suspicions about the sincerity of American intentions, ~~Sanford~~ Gottlieb, political action director of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at Kennedy Airport, Mr. Gottlieb said representatives of Hanoi and the National Liberation Front, political arm of the Viet Cong guerrillas he had met during a week-long visit to Paris and Algiers had given him the "impression" that the U. S. peace offensive was receiving some "very serious questioning."

The Hanoi representatives in Paris are "clearly less suspicious of our intentions now than when I saw them last in Paris in July," he said. "I am more optimistic now that they might find a way to respond."

Mr. Gottlieb said "time will be needed," but he hoped the Administration in Washington would continue with its pause in the bombing of North Viet Nam for as long as was needed. The first bomb that drops on North Viet Nam will kill the peace offensive, he added.

Asked if Hanoi was still making the withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam a condition to the beginning of negotiations, Mr. Gottlieb replied: "It is not a condition and never has been a condition that I know of."

Hanoi wants American acceptance of the "principle" that there will be an eventual withdrawal, but just how

it would be affected would be something that would be worked out at the negotiating table.

Mr. Gottlieb said he had been "authorized" by representatives of the National Liberation Front in Algiers to announce the opening of "channels" to American prisoners of war.

Anyone wishing to contact American prisoners should send their letters or parcels to the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam, 18 Rue Langevin, Quartier La Redoute, Algiers, Algeria.